

# **SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA EXAMINER**

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## **Congressman Bob Filner secures \$5-M for Otay Port of entry improvements**

Congressman Bob Filner, a vocal proponent of increased border efficiency, announced today that he has secured \$5 million in federal funding for improving the infrastructure at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The funds will go towards major street improvements linking the Port with the interstate highway system. At Congressman Filner's request, the funds were included in the Federal Omnibus Appropriations bill. The bill was recently signed into law by the President.

"There are incredible benefits — economic, social, and cultural — to being so close to the border," said Congressman Filner. "But when the border is gridlocked we forfeit these benefits. These funds mean we are not a step closer to our dream of an eight lane freeway at the Otay Port of Entry."

The City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, the San Diego Association of Governments, the State of California, and the local business community are all united in agreement that the Otay project is the most

important in the region.

"It's high time that the border got more attention and support from the federal government," said Alejandra Mier y Teran, Executive Director of the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce. "We're really grateful to Bob for all of his hard work, and we're confident that with support like this, the future of the border looks bright."

A single city street is currently the only link between the Otay Port of Entry and the U.S. interstate highway system. With an average traffic count of 290,000 vehicles a week, hundreds of trucks have been backing up onto local streets, causing gridlock and chaos for the Otay community. An eight-lane highway would not only end the neighborhood gridlock, it would significantly increase the cross-border commerce that is so central to the San Diego region's economy.

"When people, goods, and services can legally and efficiently flow into our region, we all benefit," said Congressman Filner.